



HB 214 - SB 875

March 21, 2021

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Creates a 9-member advisory task force of farmers and foresters to lead a strategic planning process and resulting implementation plan to position this state as a leading hub for agtech and value-added agriculture. The task force will be attached to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for administrative purposes.

Authorizes the task force to create a scope of work and issue a request for proposals (RFP) for a third-party consulting firm to develop a statewide strategy for agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship led by the farming community. Authorizes the task force to call on appropriate state agencies for reasonable assistance. Requires the task force to hold at least three meetings. Requires the task force to hold public meetings and utilize technological means such as webcasts, to gather feedback on its recommendations. Requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than August 31, 2022. Members of the task force serve without compensation.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$54,000/FY21-22

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (005338): Deletes and rewrites all language after the enacting clause such that the only substantive changes include: substitutes and replaces the appointing authority of the Task Force; changes the due date of the Task Force's report, from August 31, 2022, to June 30, 2022; adds Launch Tennessee to the groups which can provide input to the Governor regarding appointments of Task Force members; and repeals this act on July 1, 2022, rather than September 1, 2022 or upon submission of such report.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- It is assumed that there will be four quarterly meetings of the task force in FY21-22.
- Meetings will be held at public venues that are estimated to be donated to the purpose of the task force.

- No legislative members will serve on the task force.
- Members of the task force will not receive compensation; however, it is assumed that all members will be reimbursed for travel expenses. Such reimbursement will equal \$0.47 per mile roundtrip; the average miles traveled per member is estimated to be 234 miles roundtrip.
- An increase in state expenditures in FY21-22 of \$3,959 [(9 members x \$0.47 per mile x 234 miles) x 4 meetings].
- The task force will issue an RFP for a third-party consulting group to aid in developing a statewide strategy.
- Any cost to enter into a contract consequent to such RFP is unknown, but is reasonably estimated to exceed \$50,000.
- The total increase in state expenditures in FY21-22 is estimated to exceed \$53,959 (\$3,959 + \$50,000).
- Any increase in state expenditures for DOA associated with administration of the task force is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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